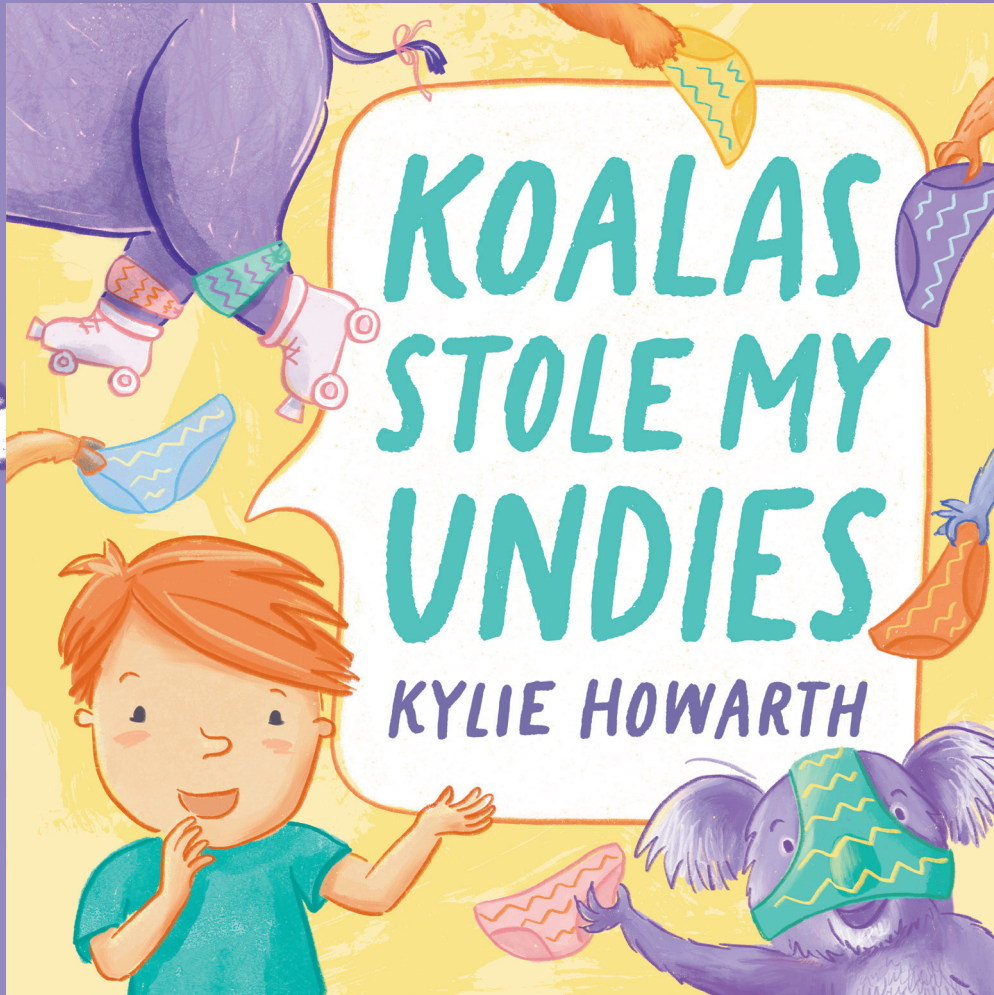


Classroom Resources



Written and illustrated by
Kylie Howarth
Suitable for
Ages 3–7

Themes
Honesty
Imagination

Contents of this pack

- Overview of *Koalas Stole My Undies*
- Key themes
- Questions to ask before we begin reading
- Main discussion in key curriculum areas
- Final reflections
- Two activities

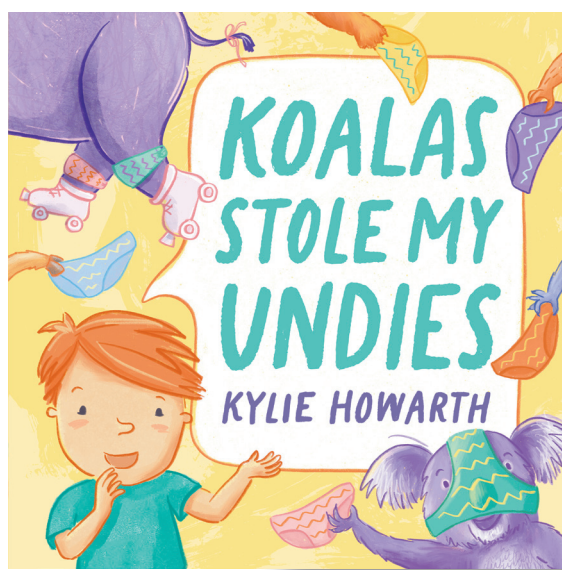
Description

Lex is done with underwear! His parents might not agree, but Lex has a whole zoo-full of excuses. Until one day when a cheeky animal encounter leaves Lex caught short! Perhaps he'll wear his underwear after all...

From Kylie Howarth comes a contemporary Australian answer to *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, pairing cheeky illustrations with hilarious rhyme and outrageously funny lies.

About the author-illustrator

Kylie is an award-winning, internationally published children's book author and illustrator from Western Australia. She was raised in the country alongside her brother, dog, sheep, several orphaned kangaroos and one very cheeky echidna. Her obsession with animals also extends underwater as she has braved lionfish in Egypt, piranha and pink dolphins in the Amazon, marine iguanas and hammerhead sharks in the Galapagos Islands and swum with whale sharks, manta rays and humpback whales at Ningaloo, Western Australia. The textures in Kylie's picture book illustrations are created with her two adventurous young boys during their backyard art sessions.



Key themes

Honesty

Lex tells elaborate lies about animals stealing his undies until one day a monkey steals his shorts and leaves Lex blushing! You could use this book as a funny, light-hearted tool to talk about the importance of telling the truth. You can build on this and talk about *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* and the idea that if you're always telling lies, people are less likely to believe you when you tell the truth.

Imagination

Lex's lies are wildly creative and very funny. Whether he's telling his mum that rhinos stole his undies to use as knee-pads or that penguins are using them as parachutes, there is no denying that Lex has a huge imagination. The artwork also builds on the lies that we read in the text, adding funny details that aren't described in the story. Use this book to discuss the power of our imagination and to prompt creative activities.



Questions to ask before we begin reading

- Have a look at the front cover; what do you think this book will be about?
- What do you like best about the cover?
- Do you think this book will be funny or serious? Why?
- Have you ever seen a koala before? What do you know about koalas? Do they usually wear underwear?
- How many pairs of underwear can you see on the cover?



Main discussion

Key curriculum areas:

Comprehension

Social and emotional development

- What expression is on Lex's face when he is first wearing his underwear? How do you know he is uncomfortable? What words show us that he doesn't like wearing his undies?
- List all the different places that Lex tried to hide his underwear. Which was the funniest? Who does Lex try to mail his undies to?
- Why does Lex avoid telling his mum the truth? Is this the right thing to do?
- If you were Lex, what would you have done?
- Can you see any hidden underwear? Keep an eye out throughout the book!
- List all the different animals that Lex says stole his underwear. Are any of these animals new to you?
- Now describe what each of the animals are using the underwear for. Which was the most impressive?
- Which was the funniest lie that Lex told?
- What happens to Lex when they go to the zoo?
- How does Lex feel when the monkey steals his shorts? What gives you a clue?
- What does the monkey do with Lex's shorts?
- Lex decides to wear his underwear again. What lesson has Lex learned from this experience?
- Does Lex wear his underwear properly at the end of the book?
- What expression is on Lex's face when he is wearing his underwear at the end of the book? Now look again at the first page. What has changed?
- Imagine that Lex is your best friend at school. How would you describe Lex? What advice would you give Lex about wearing his underwear?



Main discussion

Key curriculum area:

Literacy

Vocabulary

Discuss the following words and what they mean. Ask students to create their own sentences using these words.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| • Stole | • Blushed |
| • Beware | • Truth |
| • Excuse | • Understood |
| • Declare | • Flung |

Rhyme

Look at the first page of the story, where we first meet Lex. Can you identify any rhyming words? As a class activity, break the class into groups and ask the students to work together on different pages in the book, identifying rhyming words and/or the rhyming pattern of the book once they have grasped this concept.

Key curriculum area:

Numeracy

- How many animals are there in the book? You might like to break this down further: the total koalas, wallabies, etc.
- The animals use Lex's underwear for all sorts of things. How many different ways do the animals wear the underwear?
- How many pairs of underwear can you spot?
- How many times do we see Lex's pet dog?
- How many times does Lex tell the truth?

Final Reflections

- What was your favourite part of this book? Why?
- How does this book make you feel? Why?
- What do you think is the message of this story?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why/why not?

Activity 1: Telling my own tall-tale!

Now it's your turn to show an undie-wearing animal! You can use the space below (or a new sheet of paper) to draw your animal, or you could write a story or a poem about it instead. Have fun, and be as creative as possible! Let your imagination run wild!

MY UNDIE-WEARING ANIMAL IS ...

Activity 2: Word-search!

Find and circle each of the words from the list below! The words may appear forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally across the grid.

L E X U F A X D E H S U L B F
D B B Q N Q L N S A N A N A B
O L H P E D W A T S F L W T I
G B I R D S I R O E O J P Y I
E N B U T X U E L K X C E X H
R M I R N T T O S Q F F K X T
J V O L H D T I M R F I E S D
C H V F T S C K G A B H R I E
S N B F L S N D R E Y M A M H
T Q C X L I E I Y W R A W O C
Q E F R U U G R M R P I E N T
R I C G Z U N X W E L L B K I
N L N P O X Q G J D B E T E W
S E S I O T R O T N S D C Y G
P W A L L A B Y P U Z N M K H

Rhino Itched Socks Flung Lie Stole Shorts Truth Koala
Undies Wallaby Mouse Beware Monkey Giraffe Mailed
Wrestling Tortoise Bananas Penguin Underwear Blushed
Zoo Lex Dog Birds Tiger Fox